

## MISCELLANEOUS.

*On the Metamorphoses of the Strepsiptera.* By Dr. SIEBOLD of Erlangen.

THE species on which Dr. Siebold has made his observations are *Stylops Melittæ*, and *Xenos Rossii* and *Sphecidarum*.

The diminutive, parasitic Strepsiptera, the giant of which scarcely exceeds one-fourth of an inch in length, are of especial interest to this Society. Discovered and first described by our venerable friend Mr. Kirby, we have adopted the *Stylops* as our emblem; any elucidation of its heretofore obscure natural history must therefore be of particular interest to us. This has been supplied by Dr. Siebold, who now shows that the Strepsiptera undergo a singular metamorphosis; that the males and females differ from each other, the metamorphosis of the males being complete, they alone being furnished with wings: the females, on the contrary, have neither legs, wings, nor eyes, and greatly resemble larvæ. These females are viviparous, and never quit the bodies of the Hymenoptera in which they live as parasites. The young Strepsiptera, at the moment that they burst the eggs in which they are developed, within the body of the parent, have six legs, and are furnished with organs of manducation. These are the diminutive objects described in Mr. Westwood's paper, in a former volume of our Transactions, as the parasites of *Stylops*; and as such they were regarded at first by Klug and also by Dr. Siebold. These little hexapodous larvæ infest the surface of the abdomen of bees, within which their parent-mothers live and die. In this way the young *Stylops* is carried into the nests of the Hymenoptera, and escaping on the bodies of the larvæ, penetrate their soft skins, and become parasites on them as their parents have been in the bodies of the female bees. These larvæ shed their skins, become apodal, and move very slowly. They have then a distinct mouth and jaws, and a simple cæcal intestine, but no anal aperture. The body is formed of nine segments, of which the first is the largest, and may be considered as a cephalothorax. In this state the males are easily distinguished from the females. The cephalothorax of the male larva is conical and arched, and the last segment of the body is straight and pointed. In the females the cephalothorax is truncated or rounded in front, and flattened, or scale-like, in the rest of its extent, and the terminal segment of the body is large and rounded.—*From the Anniversary Address delivered at the Entomological Society, Feb. 10, 1845, by the President, G. Newport, F.R.C.S.*

*Description of a new species of Nymphon.* By H. D. GOODSIR, Esq.

*Nymphon giganteum*.—With the palpi twice as long as the rostrum, and the last two joints of equal length; with the pincers of the mandibles very long, slender and linear; and with the oviferous legs longer than the first four joints of the ambulatory legs.

*Description*.—The whole animal of a straw-colour, except the